When being raised by someone who dislikes children,

It's normal for the child not to whine or cry.

It's also normal...

for the child to dislike other children when he or she is an adult.

And turn into someone with a cold personality...

The noon news...
The robbery that happened earlier today on A Avenue...
The latest update...
The robber committed suicide in the bank's foyer after releasing all the hostages.
The hostages are all unharmed.
There was also a police officer injured during the crossfire...
Do Not Enter
Do Not Enter
Do Not Ente
THAT'S BECAUSE,
HE THINKS THAT HE'S A MUSHROOM...

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
IT'S LIKE...
BECAUSE THE MUSHROOMS ARE USUALLY BLACK?
GROWN ON TREE TRUNKS, THEY CAN'T MOVE
NOR CAN THEY MAKE A SOUND
PLUS THEY ARE PICKY ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT
THEY MUST BE IN A DARK AND MOIST PLACE TO GROW...
!!!!
IT DOES,
FIT THE DESCRIPTION...

YOU DO HAVE ALL KINDS OF PATIENTS HERE.
...
HEY!-
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES FOR PATIENTS TO SMOKE HERE!!
YES
YES
Yeah
IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT LIVING ENVIRONMENT, THAT'S ALL.
IN HIS EYES,
WE ARE THE STRANGE ONES.

OH WELL ... JUST AS I THOUGHT ...
THOUGH, IT'S OKAY FORTHE DOCTOR TO SMOKE ...
BUT YOU SURE ARE A STRANGE ONE
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE HURT ...
lights up
THERE'S A CLINIC RIGHT NEXT DOOR,
WHY WOULD YOU COME TO A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY TO TREAT YOUR WOUND?
AND?
IT'S A BULLET WOUND.
DO YOU WANT TO CALL THE POLICE?
YOU'RE A POLICE OFFICER?
THAT'S A LAME JOKE!

I ALSO HAD A FRIEND WHO ALWAYS SAID THAT ABOUT ME
THEN GIVE THAT FRIEND OF YOURS A CALL,
TELL HIM TO DRIVE OVER HERE AND PICK YOU UP
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD ...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A LONG TIME.
BECAUSE HE HAS?
TIME WARPING SICKNESS
DID YOU GUYS LOSE CONTACT?
NO ...

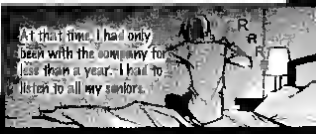
OH THAT
IT CAN BE QUITE A TROUBLE-SOME SICKNESS
THE PATIENT'S MENTAL STATE OF MIND UNCONSCIOUSLY TRAVELS TO ANOTHER TIME OF THEIR LIFE
THE PATIENT'S MENTAL AGE WOULD CHANGE ILLOGICALLY.
IT'S LIKE TRAVELING ON A TIME MACHINE EVERYDAY
SO?
LET'S PRETEND THAT YOU MET THE PATIENT WHEN HE WAS 40 AND TWO YEARS LATER,
HIS MENTAL STATE WENT BACK TO WHEN HE WAS 30
SO FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, YOU SHOULD BE SOMEONE HE MET 10 YEARS LATER.
EVERYTHING HE KNEW ABOUT YOU WOULD BE CONCEALED INSIDE HIS HEAD UNTIL HIS MENTAL AGE GOES BACK TO WHEN HE WAS 40 OR OLDER.
IT'S BETTER IF THE SICKNESS MAKES YOU GET OLDER, BUT IF IT GOES BACK IN TIME
YOUR FRIEND PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE ANYMORE
HUH?
BUDDY DON'T MIND IT TOO MUCH

JUST LIKE THAT GUY. HE WAS FROM A RICH FAMILY. NOT JUST A BIT RICH BUT SUPER RICH.
BUT THEN HIS FAMILY WENT BANKRUPT... MAYBE IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER TO HIM.
BE-CAUSE ALL HE DOES IN THIS WORLD IS HOLD AN UMBRELLA
HE CAN WALK, TALK AND SEE BUT HE DOESN'T DO ANY OF THAT. ALL HE DOES IS SIT THERE BY THE SHADOW ON THE BALCONY EVERYDAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE FEEL THAT HE'S A MUSH-ROOM.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS TO HIM.
THAT GUY...
WAS A CHILD FROM A RICH FAMILY TOO
LIKE MY FRIEND ...

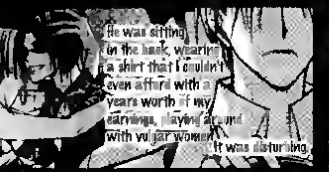
My...first encounter with that guy was at two in the morning on a weekend.

Being driven home by people from the company because he was drunk was normal for him.

No one else would do it.



My boss's call woke me up and told me to be his chauffeur.


He was sitting in the back, wearing a shirt that I couldn't even afford with a years worth of my earnings, playing around with vulgar women. It was disturbing.

"Are you an idiot?"
"You can't even park a car!?"
"S-sorry, I will... pay for the repairs!"
Forget it...
With that salary of yours?
That guy, he's personality is just like that.
Arrogant, bad, selfish and stubborn.

But, as long as he's happy,
it's so much easier to work in the company.
That was a rule that everyone knew.

That guy is a top student at a famous medical school.
Hey?
I'll summon one to pick you up for a change!
Or else?
In his eyes, I'm a common, almost pitiful, person who has to work for his dad.
I'm going to turn off my cellphone at night starting tomorrow.
Aww.
Just another person to fool around with?!
Aren't you my personal chauffeur?
Are you drunk again...?

That was the first time he ever came to my cheap rented apartment...

YOU ARE NUTS!!
WHY WOULD I LEND YOU MONEY?
... AREN'T WE FRIENDS ...?
YOU MUST BE KIDDING?
YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON EVERYONE HATES!
IF IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF YOUR DAD, WHO WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE YOU? NOW YOU'RE SAYING WE'LL FRIENDS, AND YOU COME HERE JUST TO BORROW MONEY. DO YOU THINK I'M A MORON?

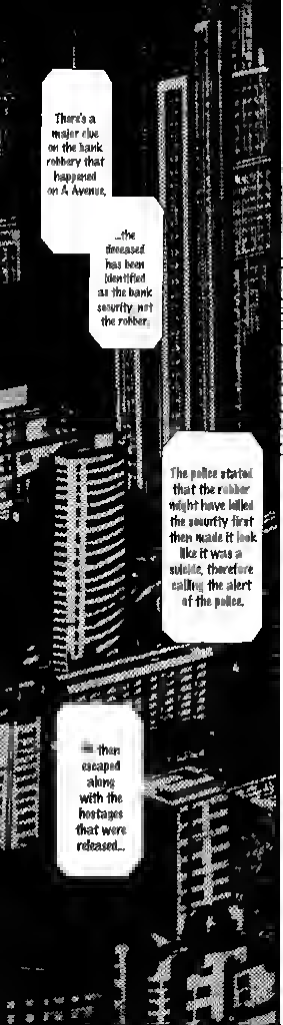
I pushed him out the door, left him crying and yelling while hanging on the door outside, and left through the window...

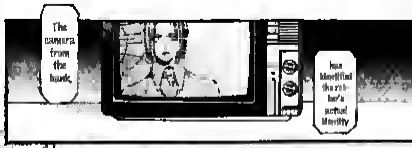
At that time,
I was releasing all my hatred.

All the hatred that I had to keep to myself because of that young master...

Came out at that moment...

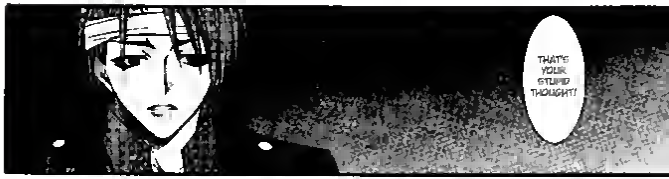
THAT NIGHT WHEN I CAME BACK, THE NEIGHBORS TOLD ME
HE KEPT ON CRYING OUTSIDE.
MAYBE BECAUSE HE WAS CRYING TOO LOUDLY.
HAH?
AND WOULDN'T GO AWAY, A FEW OF THE PEOPLE IN THE APARTMENT WENT AND BEAT HIM UP...
SO AFTER THAT,
DID HE COME AND FIND YOU AGAIN?
IT'S WAS LIKE I BEING STALKED,
SO I MOVED TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
THE RENT FOR THE APARTMENT WAS ALMOST UP ANYWAYS ...
AND BECAUSE HE COULDN'T PAY FOR SCHOOL HE GOT KICKED OUT
HE COULDN'T EVEN BECOME A DOCTOR, AND HIS DAD
HOW WAS HE SUPPOSED TO REPAY THE MONEY?


There's a major clue on the bank robbery that happened on A Avenue.
...the deceased has been identified as the bank security, not the robber.
The police stated that the robber might have killed the security first then made it look like it was a suicide, therefore calling the alert of the police.
...then escaped along with the hostages that were released...



How is it going?

Police Uniform
NEVER MIND
BE HAPPIER!
THAT GUY.
I'M SUDDENLY A BIT JEALOUS OF HIM
HE'S LUCKY THAT HE HAS THAT SICKNESS...
NO MATTER HOW HARSH THE MEMORY IS,
HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORGET IT VERY FAST...


THAT'S YOUR STUPID THOUGHT!

IF LIFE'S A PIECE OF ROTTEN WOOD THEN MEMORIES ARE LIKE THE MUSHROOMS GROWING ON IT
MUSHROOMS GROW. ROT, THEN TURN INTO NUTRITION FOR THE WOOD... WHICH MAKES THE WOOD MORE NUTRITIOUS,
SO NEW MUSHROOMS WOULD GROW FASTER

CAN YOU SAY THAT THE ROTTEN WOOD AND MUSHROOMS ARE NOT RELATED AT ALL?

TIME WARP SICKNESS IS THE GAME, THE MEMORY LOSS IS ONLY A FALSE APPEARANCE.
WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE REMEMBERED
EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE YEARS, MONTHS OR EVEN DAYS

But the memories have always remained.

NO MATTER HOW HARMFUL IT WAS, IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE FORGOTTEN AS TIME GOES ON.
EVEN IF YOU WERE JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM IT BACK THEN,
WHEN YOU THINK BACK ON IT MANY YEARS LATER IT'S NOT THAT BAD
AH, IT'S TIME FOR THE ROOM CHECKS!
SINCE YOU ARE AWAKE RIGHT NOW, THEN LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE MEDICAL FEES!
IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S FACILITIES ANYWAYS
I'M ACTUALLY HERE TO SEE MY FRIEND
AH, REALLY?
I...
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY HATE HIM THAT TIME
I ONLY WANTED TO SEE WHAT EXPRESSION HE WOULD HAVE WHEN HE GOT HURT
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HIM

I ...
EVER SINCE I MET HIM,
WHAT I HAD ALWAYS WANTED
WAS
ALL I WANTED WAS TO SEE THAT GUY'S SMILE.
RRRRRRR
DAMN IT
FEELS LIKE WE ARE SURROUNDED?
IT'S GETTING LATE.
I'M GOING TO GO.
THANK YOU FOR TREATING MY WOUNDS.

THE THING INSIDE THE BOX,
IS WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE HIM. EVER SINCE THE COMPANY WENT BANKRUPT
BUT NOW ...
THESE THINGS MIGHT BE USELESS TO THAT GUY
DOCTOR.
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
AH?
ZZ

THE YEAR WE MET
YOU WERE 29
YOU MUST BE MISTAKENED,
I'VE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE
The robber exited the hospital where he was hiding with a gun and tried to resist.
He was shot down by the police.
Next is international news...
RRRr
HELLO?

HELLO?
OH, FRESHMAN?
HOST AGE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M ALREADY GOING HOME!
I WAS CHATTING TO A POLICE OFFICER IN THE RECEPTION SECTION
HAHA? THAT GUY WAS SURE FUNNY. HE WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN HE SAW MY DYED HAIR. SO OLD FASHIONED!
AH?

THIS CAN'T BE, IT'S A JOKE

THIS
...

end.

THE SECOND HIT IS HERE!
Xu Lu's Oneshot Collection

<DEEP WATER PUPIL>

<BAROQUE [illegible]SAL>

The two of them are always passing by each other in time...

The hospital file of
Number Zero

MUSHROOM BOY

Art/ Han Lu
Edited by JIA A and JIA

"Hospital Number Zero" Series

Mushroom Boy

ONESHOT

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